

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening comprising (A) a tooth whitening ingredient having a relative permittivity of 17.0 to 43.0 (at 25°C) and a vapor pressure of 0 to 7000 kPa (at 25°C), said tooth whitening ingredient (A) is selected from the group consisting of isopropanol, butanol, ethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol with an average molecular weight of 190 to 630, diethylene glycol, butylene glycol, and glycerin, (B) a substance which dissolves in said tooth whitening ingredient and is precipitated by an aqueous solution of calcium chloride, and (C) a gelling agent, said composition being substantially free of water and peroxide.

2. (Currently Amended) The nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening as defined in claim 1, wherein the tooth whitening ingredient (A) is at least one selected from the group consisting of isopropanol, butanol, ethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol [1(J)] with an average molecular weight of 190 to 630, diethylene glycol, propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, butylene glycol, and glycerin.

3. (Currently Amended) [The] A nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening as defined in claim 1 or claim 2, comprising:

(A) a tooth whitening ingredient having a relative permittivity of 17.0 to 43.0 (at 25°C)
and a vapor pressure of 0 to 7000 kPa (at 25°C); wherein the substance

(B) a substance which dissolves in the tooth whitening ingredient and is precipitated by
an aqueous solution of calcium chloride, said substance (B) is at least one selected from the
group consisting of C₁₄₋₂₂ higher fatty acids and/or acrylic acid copolymers; and

(C) a gelling agent,

said composition being substantially free of water and peroxide.

4. (Currently Amended) The nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening as defined in claim [[3,]] 1, wherein the substance (B) is at least one selected from the group consisting of myristic acid,

7-hydroxymyristic acid, jalaric acid,

9,10,16-trihydroxypalmitic acid, palmitoleic acid,

12-hydroxystearic acid, isostearic acid, oleic acid,

linoleic acid, linolenic acid, erucic acid, shellac,

t-Bu acrylate/ethyl acrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer,

methyl acrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer,

methyl methacrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer,

acrylic acid/acrylamide/ethyl acrylate copolymer,

octylacrylamide/acrylate ester copolymer, and

methyl methacrylate/ethyl acrylate/methacrylic acid trimethylammonium ethyl chloride copolymer.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening as defined in claim 1, wherein the gelling agent (C) is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic acid, carboxyvinyl polymer, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, and salts thereof.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening as defined in claim 1, wherein the tooth whitening ingredient (A) accounts for 50.0 to 99.5 % by weight of the total amount of the composition, the substance (B) accounts for 0.1 to 10 % by weight of the total amount of the composition, and the gelling agent (C) accounts for 0.1 to 15 % by weight of the total amount of the composition.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening as defined in claim 1, which further comprises a surfactant that accounts for 0.05 to 5 % by weight of the total amount of the composition.

8. **(Previously Presented)** A tooth whitening set comprising the nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening defined in claim 1 and a tool for its application which is detachably fitted to teeth while holding it.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The tooth whitening set as defined in claim 8, wherein the tool for application is any of tape, sheet, film, mouth tray, mouth piece, sponge, impression material, pack material, and tooth cover conforming to the dentition, ~~which are all said tool being made of~~

water-insoluble material, which gives a pleasant feeling in the mouth and prevents excess salivation during use, thereby permitting the gel composition to stay in the mouth for a long period of time. position.

10. (New) The nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening as defined in claim 1, wherein the substance (B) is at least two or more selected from the group consisting of C₁₄₋₂₂ higher fatty acids and/or acrylic acid copolymers.

11. (New) The nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening as defined in claim 10, wherein said higher fatty acids have ester linkage or lactone linkage between two or more high fatty acids.

12. (New) The nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening as defined in claim 3, wherein the tooth whitening ingredient (A) is at least one selected from the group consisting of isopropanol, butanol, ethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol (with an average molecular weight of 190 to 630), diethylene glycol, propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, butylene glycol, and glycerin.

13. (New) The nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening as defined in claim 3, wherein the substance (B) is at least one selected from the group consisting of myristic acid, 7-hydroxymyristic acid, jalaric acid, 9,10,16-trihydroxypalmitic acid, palmitoleic acid,

12-hydroxystearic acid, isostearic acid, oleic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid, erucic acid, shellac, t-Bu acrylate/ethyl acrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer, methyl acrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer, methyl methacrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer, acrylic acid/acrylamide/ethyl acrylate copolymer, octylacrylamide/acrylate ester copolymer, and methyl methacrylate/ethyl acrylate/methacrylic acid trimethylammonium ethyl chloride copolymer.

14. (New) The nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening as defined in claim 3, wherein the gelling agent (C) is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic acid, carboxyvinyl polymer, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, and salts thereof.

15. (New) The nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening as defined in claim 3, wherein the tooth whitening ingredient (A) accounts for 50.0 to 99.5 % by weight of the total amount of the composition, the substance (B) accounts for 0.1 to 10 % by weight of the total amount of the composition, and the gelling agent (C) accounts for 0.1 to 15 % by weight of the total amount of the composition.

16. (New) The nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening as defined in claim 3, which further comprises a surfactant that accounts for 0.05 to 5 % by weight of the total amount of the composition.

17. (New) A tooth whitening set comprising the nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening defined in claim 3 and a tool for its application which is detachably fitted to teeth while holding it.

18. (New) The tooth whitening set as defined in claim 17, wherein the tool for application is any of tape, sheet, film, mouth tray, mouth piece, sponge, impression material, pack material, and tooth cover conforming to the dentition, said tool being made of water-insoluble material, which gives a pleasant feeling in the mouth and prevents excess salivation during use, thereby permitting the gel composition to stay in the mouth for a long period of time.

19. (New) The nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening as defined in claim 3, wherein the substance (B) is at least two or more selected from the group consisting of C₁₄₋₂₂ higher fatty acids and/or acrylic acid copolymers.

20. (New) The nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening as defined in claim 19, wherein said higher fatty acids have ester linkage or lactone linkage between two or more high fatty acids.

21. (New) The nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening as defined in claim 3, wherein the ingredient (A) is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol with an average molecular weight of 190 to 630, butylene glycol, and glycerin.

22. (New) The nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening as defined in claim 9, wherein said material is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, foamed polyethylene, polypropylene, foamed polypropylene, polyester, polyurethane, rayon, pulp, cotton, silk, paper, metal foil, silicone rubber, natural rubber, vinyl acetate resin, acrylic resin and ethylene-vinyl acetate resin.